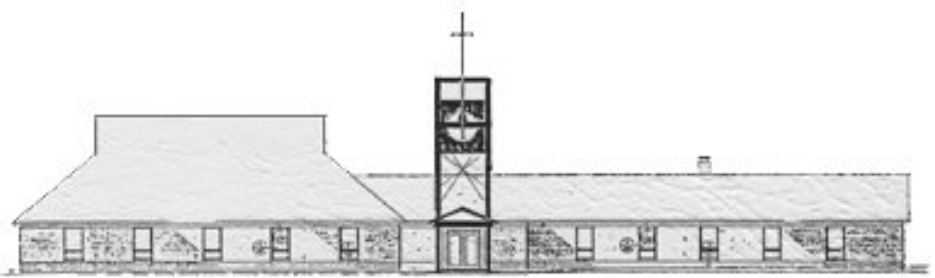


PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Breinigsville, PA

MAY 2026



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
8227 Hamilton Boulevard
Breinigsville, PA 18031
Telephone: 610-398-7000

PAUL'S PARISH NEWS is published by St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Pastor's Corner

Pastor's Corner -- PAST – PRESENT -- FUTURE

What does our past look like? What questions do you have regarding “**PAST**”? Is that your past or St Paul's past or my past or who's past? That question has many answers. If you are 10 years old it would be a recent past. If you are 40 years old – still a memory - but if you are double that, some of the past is fading and may not even include St Paul's. Do we live in the past? Should we live in the past? Do we want to live in the past? On some days -- maybe.

Let's try the present. Ok, same questions. Who and where are you asking about? Are we stuck in the present? Can we stay in the present? The present is like water flowing by in a stream. Seconds later, it is in the past and the future is almost coming – oops is here and now gone into the past. Let's try this again. We know we can't hold onto the past even though we try. (*See flowing stream above.*) We can't hold onto the present. (*See flowing stream above.*)

That leaves us only the future. We build our relationships in the here and now expecting them to be viable into the future. We are working now expecting to have a future perhaps unencumbered by lack of preparedness. Where does God fit into our past – present – future? Do we believe that sitting in the pew at church services will grow our spirituality? Or does it take relationships, contact and interaction with people to expand our faith? All churches are communities at intersections of past, present and future.

We have traditions (PAST), we have the worship comfortable practices of what we know (PRESENT), and we have the exploration of some changes that will/might come (FUTURE). Together we managed to survive the SBH (Old Red Book), the LBW (The Green Book) and the ELW (New Red Book). Think about our communion table. We know the words that are found in Luke 22: 19-20. They are familiar and are spoken in a way we have always heard. Imagine if they were changed:

* *“Thank you for coming here. Before we eat, I want to let you know that you belong here; not because of your potential or because you have your life together. You belong here because a long-time ago a man named Jesus gathered with his friends at a dinner like this one...
Jesus said,”*

Pastors corner cont'd

When I am no longer here continue to gather with friends, bring bread and wine and ask God's blessing so that you remember Me."

*WORD & WORLD Summer 2024 Luther Seminary

I am not suggesting that St Paul's might want to make this change. However, other Christian congregations have made some changes and it makes them no more or less believers in Jesus than we are. God allows churches to grow and move ahead or sideways or stay the same, each in their own ways in their own time. Let's look to a future that will reach out to those looking for relationships to expand their spirituality. We have a lot to offer.

Pastor Ginny

MONTHLY PRAYER FAMILIES

In **MAY** we will be praying for the following families each week.

May 3: The Nemeh Family, The Newhard Family,
The Nickisher Family, The Nothstein Family

May 10: The O'Connors Family, The Otto Family,
The Pavlacka Family, The Pearson Family

May 17: The Pisauro Family, The Post Family, The Reichard Family,
The Ritter Family

May 24: The Sanchez Family, The Saylor Family, The Schlenker Family,
The Schmoyer

May 31: The Schneider Family, The Sedlak Family, The Seibert Family,
The Sicher Family

LEHIGH VALLEY † OUTREACH DEPOT

www.lvoutreachdepot.org

610-861-7373

Are you trying to downsize? Do you have too much around your house?

- Mugs, glasses, utensils, pots and pans,
- Furniture, towels and linens (gently used), Cleaning supplies

A mission of Wesley United Methodist Church for over 15 years, their disaster relief warehouse is in Hellertown. Everything they do is dependent upon donations. They offer what is in their storage building

to vetted families who have been forced from their homes through abuse, by fire or flood at no charge.

PRAYER SHAWL GROUP NEWS



Thanks to our makers, our 2026 charity knit/crochet projects are well underway. If you are interested in participating, there are patterns for both projects on the table in the Narthex. Thanks to a Thrivent grant, there is yarn for your use – cotton for the soap sacks, and soft acrylic for the premie hats. See Steph, Judy, or Sandi if you would like yarn.

We will continue to offer crochet lessons and assistance at Plarn sessions over the next several months, if you need help with the patterns.

We had to change our May Plarn day to Wednesday due to a Tuesday election. Mark your calendar for Plarn on **Wednesday, May 20 at 1:30PM.**



Thank you to our wonderful congregation for the thoughtful and generous gift in honor of Administrative Assistants Day. Your kindness and appreciation truly mean so much to me. I am deeply grateful for each of you and this opportunity. – **Jennifer Doyle**

ELECTION DAY

General Primary Election is Tuesday, May 19th. The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Come out and VOTE!

**Can't get to Church on Sunday? Watch us on Facebook.
You do NOT have to be registered to do so.**

WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH [WELCA]

Our meeting scheduled for April 8, 2026, was cancelled.

- The **2026 Gather Bible study topics**

WELCA cont'd

- **Summer** (June/July/August 2026): “I am worthy,” by the Rev. Sara Olson-Smith.
- **Fall** (September/October/November 2026): “Bold faith on an unexpected journey,” by the Rev. Tiffany Chaney.
- **Winter** (December 2026/January/February 2027): Advent devotional (author details to come) and a two-part study by Wanda Frenchman (topic to come).

NEPA WOMEN OF THE ELCA SPRING JUSTICE EVENT

The Spring Justice Event was held on Saturday, April 11, 2026, at Hope Lutheran Church in Cherryville. 4 women from St. Paul’s attended the event, *We Stand for Her*, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women [MMIW]. Devotions were led by Pastor Jessica Kingsborough, followed by a video, *We Ride for Her*, a short documentary that follows an Indigenous women’s motorcycle group as they ride to end the crisis. Before lunch each of us worked on assembling a dream catcher. The afternoon session was a presentation by Christine Applegate from the Museum of Indian Culture on the formation of the Iroquois Confederacy. A very interesting presentation on the 5 nations in New York.

ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED TO THESE EVENTS

NEWS FROM THE NEPA WELCA - - - - - **SAVE THE DATE**

- 36th Annual Convention of the NEPA Women of the ELCA, June 13, 2026, St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Breinigsville. Topic: *Finding Your Inner Self*. Registration. A mailing, both USPS and email, was done for this event in late March. If you have not received a packet, please see Daisy Pearson, Sandi Wagaman or Sharon Bortz, if you are interested in attending the event.

Join us for our next meeting, Wednesday, May 13, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. for a

time of fellowship and a Bible Study.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS – MARCH 2026

At our March 22nd meeting, property brought to the council that the person doing our lawn maintenance was retiring, so we had to look for a new lawn service.

A Blu-ray was purchased which will be used for our monthly movie. Council approved the updated cemetery Constitution/By-Laws which are now in a word document.

Our Synod Assembly delegates are Sharon Bortz and Daisy Pearson. A restroom sign is being purchased to enable visitors' direction to the restrooms.

CAMERATA SINGERS

Saturday May 2nd at 3pm Camerata Singers will present our spring concert: American Sings: Choral music by American composers in celebration of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. The program will feature the complete Frostiana by Randall Thompson--seven songs for chorus and piano on poems by Robert Frost: selected works by Aaron Copland, Elaine Hagenberg, Morten Lauridsen, Kyle Pederson, Rosephanye Powell, Florence Price and more. The concert will be held at Christ Lutheran Church at 1245 Hamilton St Allentown; handicap entrance can be found on the 13 th Street side of the church. For ticket information see the invitation card on the table in the Narthex or contact Cathy Waltemyer at mom3mrg@gmail.com

IRONPIGS GAME

Announcing the IronPigs game, Sunday, June 28, 2026. Game time is 1:15 p.m. Gates open at 12:00 p.m. We again will be in the PenTeleData 3rd Base Party Porch. The price is \$39.00. A sign-up sheet will be on the table in the Narthex or you can call the church office at 610-398-7000. Deadline for payment is June 2nd.

HOME HEALTH PRODUCTS FOR ENCAMPMENT RELOCATION PEOPLE

We are asking for Home Health Products to help those needing temporary housing. Please do not think an extra-large size is better - it takes up too much room in a backpack. **Items needed in smaller containers:** Wash cloth, soothing cream, powder, shampoo, conditioner, bar soap,

toothbrush and paste, lip balm, deodorant, razors, shaving cream, woman's products (pads and tampons) Anything you use we missed on the list.

ALLENTOWN FOOD BANK


We continue to collect donations for the Allentown Food Bank. Boxes are in the Narthex at the church. Below are items in need.

Cans of soup, pasta, cans of vegetables, tuna fish, rice, cereal (non-sweetened) peanut butter, juice boxes, and cans of chicken salad.

**UPCOMING EVENTS FROM
THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE**

May 10th - Potluck 11:30 am

May 15th - Pizza/Movie Night 6 pm

 <p>A colorful graphic for 'May Birthdays' featuring a pink birthday cake with candles, a green gift box, a party hat, and various flowers and stars. The text 'May Birthdays' is written in a cursive font.</p>	<p>1 Sue Bellucci 6 Helen Post 7 Carol Weiser 8 Robert Brucha 11 Aubrey Pavlacka Peggy Saylor Jeffrey Waltemyer 17 Margaret Apgar 18 Kyana Maslany Kelly Morgenstern</p>	<p>22 Sophia Mesko 25 Michael Morgenstern Joseph Thompson</p> <p>If your birthday or anniversary is not listed, please let the office know. We want to include you</p>
 <p>A graphic for 'MAY ANNIVERSARIES' featuring a large purple flower with a yellow center. The text 'MAY' is in large purple letters, and 'ANNIVERSARIES' is in smaller purple letters below it.</p>	<p>8 Ken & Janine Ritter 9 Nick & Sue Bellucci 18 Margaret & Ray Stoudt 21 Anthony & Katie Pisauro 23 John & Heather Caricari 24 Rosalie & Timothy Gallagher Amy & Joe Williams 27 Ethan & Vanessa Eiswerth</p>	<p>If your birthday or anniversary is not listed, please let the office know. We want to include you</p>

ST. PAUL'S CEMETERY ASSOCIATION BOARD
MEMBER WANTED

A little background regarding the Cemetery Board.

The Trustees forming the Board of Trustees shall be elected by the St. Paul's United Church of Christ Council and St. Paul's Lutheran Church Council at their December meeting; the number of Trustees to be elected is six, three from St. Paul's United Church of Christ and three from St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Trustees are elected for two-year terms and may serve for no more than six consecutive years.

The board meets quarterly, January, April, July, October, on the third Wednesday of the month. For the past year or so, the meetings have been at St. Paul's Lutheran Church starting at 6:30 p.m. Generally, the meetings last for about an hour, or a little longer. A copy of the Constitution/By-Laws is available upon request.

I will be ending my 6 years of serving on the board at the end of this year and am now looking for someone to replace me on the board. Please see me if you have questions regarding being a board member. Other Board members from our church are Robert Bastian and Cal Fetherolf.

Sharon Bortz

SIGN-UP SHEETS FOR 2026
BULLETIN & ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORSHIPS

We are in need of bulletin sponsorships for 2026. The price is \$20.00. Call the church office to pick a date to sponsor or check the bulletin board for available dates. Fill out the **white** slip with your name, date you are sponsoring and the wording and place it in the folder under the signup sheet.

Altar Flower Sponsorships are: one vase is \$24.00 or both vases are \$48.00. If you are sponsoring both vases, **PLEASE** sign your name to **BOTH LINES**. Fill out the **blue** slip with your name, date you are sponsoring and the wording and place it in the folder under the signup sheet. Call the church office to pick a date to sponsor or check the bulletin board for available dates.



ALTAR GUILD, COMMUNION ASSISTANTS AND READERS ARE NEEDED

We are in need of people to help with the 10:30AM worship service – specifically Altar Guild, Communion Assistants, and Readers.

For Altar Guild, you would serve approximately every 6 weeks. Altar Guild is responsible for coming to church a half hour early and setting up the altar for communion – i.e. placing the linens, wine, and grape juice on the altar, preparing the bread, and placing trays of communion cups in the sanctuary. At the end of service, Altar Guild removes everything from the altar, including fresh flower bouquets, waters them, washes the communion-ware and puts it away. You would be working with another Altar Guild member until you feel comfortable.

As a Communion Assistant, you would serve approximately every 6 weeks. Communion Assistants assist during communion –usually pouring the grape juice while the lay assistant handles the wine.

As Reader, again, you would serve every 6 weeks by reading the lessons during the service. Readers are asked to move toward the mic during the last verse of the hymn, so they are already in place when it is time to read the lessons.

Currently, many of our lay assistants are serving triple duty and are scheduled multiple times a month - because there are not enough readers and communion assistants.

Please consider helping out in one of these roles. Even if you can only volunteer at certain times of the year, the scheduler can work around and accommodate busy and varied schedules. Thank you for your prayerful consideration to assist in worship. If you are interested in helping, please contact Steph Wagaman at 610-395-0355, stepbillwagaman@rcn.com; or call the church office at 610-398-7000.

HOSPITALIZED?

Due to the changes in the Chaplin's offices at our local hospitals, the Hospital Code number we have been using, 321 cannot be used to identify our congregation. They do not have the volunteers needed to keep the office staffed to notify or accept calls regarding admissions.

Please call the office at St Paul's if you want us to know of any hospitalizations. 610-398-7000

CARD MINISTRY

Here at St. Paul's, we send cards to members of the congregation who are ill or in need of a cheerful word. These cards are on the table in the narthex. When you are here on a Sunday, or during the week, check the table to see if there is a card. Please sign your name and help bring a smile to a fellow member.



Sunday, May 3, 2026 – The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 7:55-60 The martyrdom of Stephen

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 Into your hands, O LORD, I commend my spirit

1 Peter 2:2-10 God's people chosen to proclaim God's mighty acts

John 14:1-14 Christ is the way, truth and life

Sunday, May 10, 2026 – The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 17:22-31 Paul's message to the Athenians

Psalm 66:8-20 Bless our God, you peoples.

let the sound of praise be heard.

1 Peter 3:13-22 The days of Noah, a sign of baptism

John 14:15-21 Christ our advocate

Sunday, May 17, 2026 – The Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:6-14 Jesus' companions at prayer after his departure

Psalm 68:1-10,32-25 Sing to God, who rides upon the clouds

1 Peter 4:12-14,5:6-11 God will sustain and restore those who suffer

John 17:1-11 Christ's prayer for his disciples

Sunday, May 24, 2026 – Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21 Filled with the Spirit to tell God's deeds

Psalm 104:24-34,35b Send forth your

Spirit and renew the face of the earth

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 Varieties of gifts from the same Spirit

John 20:19-23 The Spirit poured out

Sunday, May 31, 2026 – The Holy Trinity

Genesis 1:1-2.4a The creation of the heavens and earth

Psalm 8 How majestic is your name in all the earth!

2 Corinthians 13:11-13 Paul's farewell to the church at Corinth

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT
NEWSLETTER IS
MAY 15TH**

**PLEASE HAVE YOUR
ARTICLES SUBMITTED TO
THE CHURCH OFFICE
BY THIS DATE.**



**CHURCH OFFICE: 610-398-7000
HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE
EMAIL: office@stpaulsbbville.org
Website: www.stpaulsbbville.org**

STAFF

Interim Pastor.....The Rev. Ginny Goodwin
Organist/Choir Director.....Ms. Judy Noll
Handbell Director.....Mr. Richard Steltz
Parish Secretary.....Mrs. Jennifer Doyle

Puzzle!

Find and circle all the words horizontally. Then, starting on the top line and moving across from left to right, read John 6:35 (NIV). Put the words in order on the spaces below to complete the Bible verse.

JOHN 6:35

.....

WORD LIST

am and be believes bread comes in whoever
 hungry go life me me never to never the the of will
 will thirsty whoever

T	E	I	R	S	U	V	W	A	M	X	Y	Z	A	B	T	H	E	I
J	K	L	M	B	R	E	A	D	N	P	O	F	Q	R	L	I	F	E
D	W	H	O	E	V	E	R	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
B	C	D	F	C	O	M	E	S	G	H	I	J	T	O	K	L	M	E
N	W	I	L	L	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	N	E	V	E	R	V	W
Z	Y	Z	B	C	A	G	O	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
M	H	U	N	G	R	Y	N	A	N	D	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V
W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	W	H	O	E	V	E	R
M	N	O	B	E	L	I	E	V	E	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A
V	W	X	Y	Z	I	N	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	M	E	U	V	W	X	Y	A	B	C	D
D	E	F	W	I	L	L	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	N	E	V	E	R	A	B	C	D	B	E	D
F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	T	H	I	R	S	T	Y	O	P	Q

"I _____

 _____"

-John 6:35, NIV

Answer: "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." John 6:35, NIV

DO YOU NEED TO DECLUTTER OR ARE YOU IN THE MOOD FOR SOME SHOPPING FOR A GREAT CAUSE???

Boutique for Hope will be holding their annual sale on May 26 – May 30. This sale benefits and supports cancer patients and their loved ones through the Cancer Support Community, St. Luke's Hospice and St. Luke's Cancer Center. The location this year is very close - 3801 Brookside Road, Macungie.

You can donate items to be sold or find great deals on sale days. Items include clothing, jewelry, toys, shoes, pet items and household goods. There is a flyer on the bulletin board with further details, dates and times or contact Peggy Saylor for more information.

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The following memorial contributions have been received in memory of Alice Bastian:

Rosemary Lehman
Bruce & Sandi Wagaman
Daisy Pearson
St. Paul's WELCA

The following memorial contributions have been received in memory of Heather Sedlak:

Judith Wanfried
Daisy Pearson
Bruce & Sandi Wagaman
St. Paul's WELCA

CONFIRMATION

On May 24th which is Pentecost Sunday at 10:30 a.m. service, 2 of our youth will be confirmed (Affirmation of Baptism). They are Sophia Mesko and Ellie Pisauro. May the Holy Spirit continue to strengthen them in their journey of faith.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

May 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 Fifth Sunday of Easter 9:00 a.m.-Worship 9:15 a.m.-Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m.-Worship	4 10:00 a.m.-Bible Study	5	6	7 9:30 a.m.-Amazing Womens Group 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	8	9
10 Sixth Sunday of Easter 9:00 a.m.-Worship 9:15 a.m.-Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m.-Worship 11:30 a.m.- Potluck MOTHER'S DAY	11 10:00 a.m.-Bible Study 1:00 p.m.-Worship and Music	12	13 9:30 a.m.-W-ELCA	14 9:30 a.m.-Amazing Womens Group 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	15 6:00 p.m. Movie 7:00 p.m. Pizza NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	16
17 Seventh Sunday of Easter 9:00 a.m.-Worship 9:15 a.m.- Last Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m.-Worship 11:30 am. – Blood Pressure Check	18 10:00 a.m.-Bible Study	19 ELECTION DAY	20 1:30 p.m. PLARN 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting	21 9:30 a.m.-Amazing Womens Group 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 6:30 p.m. Haafsville 7:30 p.m.- Choir	22	23
24 Pentecost 9:00 a.m.-Worship 10:30 a.m.-Worship 31 The Holy Trinity 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Worship	25 10:00 a.m.-Bible Study MEMORIAL DAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	26	27	28 9:30 a.m.-Amazing Womens Group 6:15 p.m.-Joyful Ringers 7:30 p.m.-Choir	29	30

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

May 2026

If you cannot fulfill an assigned duty, please call the church office at 610-398-7000 or
the Council Person of the Month – George Sanchez 570-617-8669

Sunday, May 3, 2026

9:00AM

No Assistants

10:30AM

Ushers: Andrew Bruchak, Bob Bruchak
Altar Guild: Rosemary Lehman
Communion Asst: Sharon Bortz
Communion Bread: Tom & June Kellogg
Greeter: Carol Derr-Breinig
Lay Asst: Dick Steltz
Reader: June Kellogg

Sunday, May 17, 2026

9:00AM

No Assistants

10:30AM

Ushers: Frank Bennighoff, Zack Dimovitz
Altar Guild: Amy Williams
Communion Asst: Dick Steltz
Communion Bread: Melanie Dimovitz
Greeter: Frank & Sandy Bennighoff
Lay Asst: Lacey Edwards
Reader: Jennifer Bentsen

Sunday, May 10, 2026

9:00AM

No Assistants

10:30AM

Ushers: Ken Ritter, Carl Seibert
Altar Guild: Janine Ritter
Communion Asst: Sandi Wagaman
Communion Bread: Ken & Janine Ritter
Greeter: Cal Fetherolf
Lay Asst: Rosemary Lehman
Reader: Cal Fetherolf

Sunday, May 24, 2026

9:00AM

No Assistants

10:30AM

Ushers: Rosie Gallagher, Peggy Saylor
Altar Guild: Judy Walker/Steph Wagaman
Communion Asst: Tom Kellogg
Communion Bread: Steph Wagaman
Greeter: Rosie Gallagher
Lay Asst: Bob Bruchak
Reader: Tom Kellogg

Sunday, May 31, 2026

9:00AM

No Assistants

10:30AM

Ushers: Melanie Dimovitz, Madeline MacMechan
Altar Guild: Esther Seibert
Communion Asst: Anita Eisenhard
Communion Bread: Esther Seibert
Greeter: Melanie Dimovitz
Lay Asst: Sharon Bortz
Reader: Martine Otto

Lehigh Mission District
mailing address:
PO Box 10
Old Zionsville, PA 18068

LMD Spring Assembly REMINDER:

Sunday, May 3 at 4pm
at the Lutheran Center
(2354 Grove Road,
Allentown)

Hors d'oeuvres will be
served starting at 3:30pm.

Every LMD active rostered
leader and every LMD
lay voting member is
expected to attend.
Registration was due by 4/15



2026 NEPA Synod Assembly
June 4-6, 2026
Split Rock Resort
(428 Moseywood Rd,
Lake Harmony, PA 18624)

The Synod Assembly is the
annual gathering of the
synod's congregations,
pastors, and leaders to
worship, conduct business,
and discern the church's
mission together. This year
it will also include election
of a bishop, as voting
members prayerfully discern
and elect a bishop to serve a
six-year term.

Registration is open thru 5/12!



*June 2026 LMD NL news
will be due May 11, 2026.*

Please email any information to
lmd.newslettereditor@gmail.com

2025 LMD Christmas Ingathering Recap

During Advent, we focus on the gift of a child who comes to show us God's love and calls us to share that love with others. We spread the light of Christ by participating in the Lehigh Mission District Ingathering. This annual effort provides essential personal items and Christmas gifts to various institutions throughout the Lehigh Valley. The Ingathering's success is a direct result of your time and effort.

Congregations and Volunteers:

- ✝ Ingathering Team Board Members: Penny Newhard, Alice Mudge, Faith Drescher, Pam Page, and Shellie Fritchman.
- ✝ Participating Churches: 22 congregations.
- ✝ Volunteers: Each church has 1–2 point persons (representatives). Hundreds of congregational members support the ministry annually through monetary donations and purchasing items.
- ✝ Volunteer Hours: While difficult to quantify, the process involves months of planning starting in September, followed by a month of collections and several days of sorting, assembling, and delivery.

Donations and Recipients:

- ✝ Organizations Served: Topton Home, Allentown Rescue Mission, Daybreak, Bethany Christian Services, Sixth Street Shelter, Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley, YMCA Winter Warming Station, Cedarbrook Nursing Home, Sharing Life, Boys & Girls Clubs of Allentown, Bright Hope Pregnancy Support Center, and Allentown Halfway Home.
- ✝ Items Received: Thousands of items were donated and distributed.

Financial Information:

- ✝ 2025 Recipients: We have approximately \$3,250 available to donate. Two organizations were selected to receive \$1,625 each:
 - SoLeHi KidCare (St. James, Coopersburg)
 - Ripple Church (Allentown)
- ✝ 2026 Recipients: We have already selected Family Promise and The Caring Place for next year.





OPERATION SUNSHINE

Operation Sunshine is a non-profit fellowship opportunity within our Mission District, run solely by volunteers.

1933 Hanover Ave,
Allentown, PA 18109

Open: Monday 11-3 and
Wednesday 11-3

Phone: 610-435-9155
Email: LMDopsunshine@aol.com
www.LMDopsunshine.com

Registration is **NOW OPEN** for the last 3 advertised shows:

June 11th – West Side Story (*wait list only*)
July 22nd – Mary Poppins
August 26th – The Discoteks

As well as our two multi-day trips:

May 13-15 – Pittsburgh Express (*wait list only*)
Sept. 13-19 – Myrtle Beach, SC (*wait list only*)

If you are interested, we encourage you to put your name on a wait list for any sold-out shows.

Please see the attached newsletter or visit the website for more info.



The Neighborhood Center is dedicated to providing early childhood education, specifically designed for our Early Learners, to prepare them for kindergarten. We also offer an Elementary Program and a Teens Program that meets regularly after school and during the summer.

A gift today will provide safe after-school activities, homework help, warm meals, and a place where kids know they belong!



www.theneighborhoodcenterallentown.com
344 N. 7th Street, Allentown, PA 18102
Phone: 610-434-5799

March was an exciting month! It came in like a lion and went out like a lamb, and we even created lions and lambs on a plate. We enjoyed reading "Green Eggs and Ham" and had many guest readers visit the children. We celebrated St. Patrick's Day with Lucky Charms, welcomed the longer days of spring, and marked the first day of the season.

Additionally, we celebrated Easter by boiling and dyeing eggs and organizing an egg hunt. We all had a fantastic time, and it's hard to choose which activity was the most fun.

We are in need of a bookshelf, buttons for art projects, and a two-line phone. Please feel free to contact us if you would be willing to help us with any of these needs.

Your support is always greatly appreciated!



Family Promise of Lehigh Valley (FPLV), a 501(c)(3) organization that provides shelter, meals, and case management to children and families experiencing or at risk of homelessness in the Lehigh Valley.

Our partner congregations are the backbone of our mission. As a volunteer-driven organization, our work wouldn't be possible without the support of congregations like yours. We'd be grateful for the opportunity to share this ministry with your church or your mission team.

Please contact us for more information.

A Tax-Smart Way to Give:

Donate Your IRA's Required Distribution

Did you know there's a powerful, tax-efficient way to support Family Promise of Lehigh Valley? If you are age 70½ or older and have a traditional IRA, you can make a direct, tax-free gift through a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). Funds can be transferred directly from your IRA custodian to Family Promise, excluding the donation from your taxable income. This option can help keep overall taxable income lower while making a meaningful impact. We are grateful to everyone who considers this smart and generous way to give.

1346 W. Hamilton Street, Allentown PA 18102
Phone: 610-351-1368
Email: Director@FPLhighvalley.org
www.FPLhighvalley.org



A Big CROP Thank You!

THANK YOU for helping our 2025 Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk raise **over \$28,783.31** to help our food-insecure neighbors in the Allentown area and beyond!

As a result of your generosity, the **LEHIGH CHURCHES' CONFERENCE KITCHEN** and the **ALLENTOWN AREA ECUMENICAL FOOD BANK** are each receiving more than \$3580 for their vital ministries with neighbors experiencing food insecurity in our area.

And **CHURCH WORLD SERVICE** is able to help many more of our neighbors who are struggling in the aftermath of floods, fires, droughts, and other disasters throughout the United States and the world.

Please Save the 2026 CROP Hunger Walk Date!

Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk:
Sunday, October 18, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.,
with registration beginning at 1:00 p.m.
at St. Timothy Lutheran Church
(140 S. Ott St., Allentown, PA 18104)

CHRISTMAS, BIRTHDAY, or ANNIVERSARY GIFT IDEA: DONATE ANYTIME at

www.crophungerwalk.org/allentownpa



Alternatively, **CHECKS FOR "CWS/CROP"** may be given through your congregation/group or sent directly to Linda Held, Allentown CROP Hunger Walk Treasurer, 3441 Devonshire Road, Allentown, PA 18103.

LIKE us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/AllentownCROPWalk/>



NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

How a Desire to Grow in Faith Became a Journey into Unexpected Ministry

Written by Licensed Lay Minister (LLM) Tanya Kantner

If you had told me a few years ago that I would be serving as a Licensed Lay Minister, I'm not sure I would have believed you. For most of my life, Scripture felt beautiful but distant—something I respected but didn't always understand. Then, slowly and quietly, it began to take root in my heart. I signed up for an online Faith+Lead course through Luther Seminary—training usually taken by laypeople preparing for ministry—simply because I wanted to grow in my faith. I wasn't seeking a role or a title; at that point, there wasn't even a pathway to consider. I just felt a tug I couldn't ignore.

Then the synod announced the new Licensed Lay Minister initiative. I didn't feel ready or qualified. But I recognized that same tug—that gentle, persistent nudge of the Spirit—and I said yes. Not because I felt prepared, but because I trusted that God could take my imperfect offering and turn it into something meaningful.

Since then, my ministry has unfolded in ways that have surprised me again and again. I've learned that the heart of this role isn't about doing more—it's about being present. It's about showing up where people carry joy, grief, questions, and hope, trusting that Christ is already there ahead of us. My role in those moments is simple but sacred: to listen, to hold space, to pray with people, and to reflect back the light and love of Christ that is already moving in their lives. Sometimes that looks like sitting quietly with someone who is grieving; sometimes it's celebrating a moment of joy; sometimes it's offering a word of encouragement or a prayer when someone feels lost. In all of it, I try to be a gentle reminder that they are not alone—that God is with them in whatever they're carrying.



Serving within the Pretzel City Parish has been one of the greatest gifts of this journey. Shared ministry has allowed me to connect with people across several congregations, each with their own stories. It has also opened doors into the wider community—places where the church's presence matters deeply, even for those who may never sit in a pew.

Some of the most meaningful moments have come through simple, hands-on ministry: harvesting potatoes in the fall for local food programs, partnering with community food pantries, planning trips to places like the Museum of the Bible and the Ark Encounter, or gathering people for Bible study who have been

unchurched for years but are still hungry for connection and meaning. These ministries remind me that the Gospel is not confined to a sanctuary. It lives in fields, fellowship halls, parking lots, and conversations with people who are searching for belonging.



Looking ahead, I'm excited to continue deepening relationships within the Pretzel City Parish. I've come to cherish the everyday moments—the conversations, the intergenerational gatherings, the unexpected holy interruptions—where God quietly draws us closer to one another. My hope is that through these moments, people feel more seen, more connected, and more aware of God's love at work in their lives.

If someone were considering the Licensed Lay Minister pathway, I would tell them this: you don't need to have everything figured out. You don't need to feel certain or strong. The most surprising part of my journey has been discovering how God works through my vulnerability far more than through my confidence. Again and again, I've learned that ministry is not about our strength, but about God's.

I am deeply grateful for the synod's support and their commitment to developing lay leadership. Their encouragement, guidance, and investment in creating pathways for people like me have made this journey possible. It has reminded me that God calls people from all walks of life into meaningful ministry—and that the church is stronger when we answer those calls together.

I began this journey quietly, almost reluctantly. But each step has revealed a little more of what God is doing—not just in me, but also through me, and in the congregations and communities I'm blessed to serve. My prayer is simply to keep saying yes, one invitation at a time, trusting that the Spirit will continue to lead the way.

DID YOU KNOW that your Mission Support helps fund areas of the synod and ELCA like this one and many other important initiatives? Your contributions are making a significant impact and helping others grow in faith, supporting the synod's lanes of Growing Young, Gaining Strength, and Going Beyond Death to Life, along with the directions of loving like Jesus, healing like Jesus, and engaging like Jesus. To learn more, visit godslove.org/missionsupport.



“We Are Listening”

Ministry Discernment Retreat
June 13–14, 2026

Cross Roads Camp & Retreat Center | Port Murray, NJ

Join us for a weekend of reflection, conversation, and discovery as we listen for God's call in our lives and ministries.

\$55 per person (includes lodging + 4 meals)

Register by June 1: Limited to 25 participants



godslove.org/we-are-listening